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No. 17, 116

號七廿月三年八十壹百九千壹英

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 1918.

午戌次歲年七國民華中

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Further information may be obtained at the Company's Office, Hotel Mansions,
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Prices, samples and full particulars will be forwarded on application to
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Hongkong, April 11, 1918.

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THE PREMIER SCOTCH OF
THE FAR EAST
FOR 25 YEARS.

POPULARITY MAINTAINED BY ITS EXCELLENT
QUALITY: NOT BY EXPENSIVE WORLD-WIDE
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ENGINEERS and SHIPBUILDERS, BOILER-MAKERS, BRASS and IRON
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Estimates furnished on application.
WONG PING WA, Manager.

Hongkong, April 1, 1918.

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IT WHILE AWAY.

Price \$12 PER ANNUM, INCLUDING POSTAGE

CAN BE MAILED TO ANY ADDRESS FROM THE

"CHINA MAIL" OFFICE.

THE GREAT BATTLE.

LIKELY TO CONTINUE FOR WEEKS.

A STATEMENT BY MR. LLOYD GEORGE.

(Reuter's Service to the China Mail.)

ENEMY OCCUPY NIESE AND BAPAUME.

HEAVY FIGHTING CONTINUES.

London, Mar. 26.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig

reports:—

There has been very severe fighting throughout the day on wide fronts southward of Peronne and southward and northward of Bapaume.

The enemy attacked our positions in great strength with fresh forces, and, despite gallant resistance, we were forced to give ground.

The enemy occupy Nieze and Bapaume.

Heavy fighting continues.

GREAT WORK BY BRITISH AVIATORS.

London, Mar. 26.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig, reporting on aviation, says:—

There is very great aerial activity. The day was remarkable for the weight of the bombs dropped and the number of flights. Many thousands of rounds were fired from low altitudes upon the enemy's troops.

Aeroplanes reported the progress of the battle, and informed the artillery of suitable targets.

Low-fliers bombed and machine-gunned masses of troops in the battle area.

Over 1,700 bombs were dropped at day-time on different targets, including the Bruges dock, the Aulnoye railway station, a large camp south-eastward of Cambrai, high velocity guns and hostile reinforcements.

The fighting is the most severe experienced.

We brought down 47 enemy machines and drove down 22 out of control.

Ten of ours are missing.

After dark we continued bombing and machine-gunning enemy troops opposite the battle front and also bombed the Bruges dock and the aerodrome between Tournai and Mons, used by night-fliers. Over 40 tons of bombs were dropped. All our planes returned. One large enemy bomber landed behind our lines.

Following the successful day-light raid on Mannheim and other objectives in Germany, we attacked, at night-time, We dropped half a ton of bombs on the railway stations of Cologne, starting a fire.

Over a ton of bombs were distributed on the Luxembourg railway station, where a fire was started, and on the Concelles railway station, eastward of Metz, and two tons on the Metz railway station. Direct hits were secured on a bridge south-east of the town and on a stationary train which caught fire and a large fire also started. Also a ton of bombs were dropped on the Thionville railway station, where a moving train was derailed and a fire caused.

All our machines returned.

FIELD-MARSHAL HAIG TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

London, Mar. 25.

The Press Bureau states:—
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig has sent the following reply to His Majesty's message:—

"Your Majesty's message has given universal encouragement to the whole Army. I beg Your Majesty to accept our grateful thanks and the assurance that we will steadfastly continue to do our utmost to deserve the inspiring confidence Your Majesty and our people throughout the Empire have placed in us in this hour of national crisis."

On the contrary, British opinion is confident of the Allied reserve power and is rallying to a determination to endure, if necessary, a most protracted conflict.

BRITISH CABINET'S MESSAGE.

NATION'S THANKS TO THE ARMY.

REINFORCEMENTS RUSHED UP.

London, Mar. 25.

The Press Bureau publishes the following:—

The Cabinet wishes to express to the Army the Nation's thanks for its splendid defence. The whole Empire is filled with pride, watching the heroic resistance of the brave troops against overwhelming odds. Knowing their steadfastness and courage whenever the country's honour depends on their valour, the Empire confidently awaits the result of this struggle to defeat the enemy's last desperate effort to trample down free nations.

We at home are prepared to do all in our power to help in a true spirit of comradeship. Men necessary to replace all the casualties, and guns and machine-guns, required to make good the losses, are either now in France or already en route. Still further reinforcements of men and guns are ready to be thrown into battle.

Lloyd George.

AN IRON DETERMINATION.

BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION NOT DEPRESSED.

London, Mar. 26.

As evidence develops that the Germans are not likely to gain a decision in face of the magnificent British resistance, public opinion, which, though anxious, has never been unduly depressed, is now bracing itself in a determination to acquiesce in whatever measures are necessary to meet an admittedly critical situation. All contention has been silenced.

There was a flicker of labour restlessness at Manchester recently, when the unofficial representatives of the Engineers threatened to strike against the man-power proposals, but this has promptly been extinguished by an outburst of popular indignation in which even the Facilitists have joined, and meetings of district branches of the Amalgamated Engineers yesterday repudiated the Manchester decisions in which the Executive had no part.

Everywhere unshaken confidence is expressed that the undaunted front presented by the British troops will baffle the enemy who, with troops four to five times more numerous, only scored a moderate success but endured colossal losses, and are already showing signs of flagging. The net result of the German movement so far is the making of three bulges in the British line, namely, south of Arras, at Bapaume and towards Nieze, but he failed in the North, where the steadiness of the British line checked the enemy's double thrust.

THE ENEMY'S POLITICAL OBJECT.

That the enemy's offensive has a political object is corroborated in an article by a prominent London citizen, Mr. Ernest Pyke, who was released from (Ruhleben) after 83 years. He frequently visited Berlin as camp kitchen inspector.

Mr. Pyke says the present desperate move is undoubtedly dictated by fear of the mob as the German people are suffering unexampled privations and are aching for peace and food. This estimate is confirmed by reiterated assurances in enemy communications recently that peace is near at hand.

On the contrary, British opinion is confident of the Allied reserve power and is rallying to a determination to endure, if necessary, a most protracted conflict.

Hughes & Hough
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PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction (FOR ACCOUNT OF THE GOVERNMENT.)

THURSDAY,

the 28th March, 1918, at 2.30 p.m.,
at No. 28, Jordan Road, Top Flat,
(off Nathan Road), Kowloon,
(next Diocesan Girls' School).

VALUABLE HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE,

As follows:—
Stained Teak Dining Room Suite,
Desk, Fender, etc., "Jacobean Style,"
Cabinet Gramophone and Stand, and
Music Cabinet, Special Artists Model,
Water Colours and Prints by Yamamoto,
(Artistically framed), Plate and Glass
Ware, &c.
Bedroom Furniture (Fumed teak).

Also
One KOREAN CABINET.
A number of lots of Books, comprising
Works on Occult Subjects, Poems and
Drama, Novels, Art Magazines, &c.,
New Tennis Racquet and Press, Electric
Fittings, &c.
(Full Particulars from Catalogue).
On view day of Sale.
Terms:—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.
Hongkong, Mar. 23, 1918. 281

PUBLIC AUCTION

THE Undersigned have received instructions from the Liquidator of the HAMBURG AMERICA LINE, to sell by Public Auction

THURSDAY,

the 28th March, 1918, at 11 a.m.,
at No. 3 Duddell Street,
A Portion of the Excellent and well
made OFFICE FURNITURE consisting
of Double Desks with Drawers, Office
Table, Large Teak Screen, &c., &c., &c.

Also
One STEEL SAFE by Armbrust, Berlin,
64 x 43 x 31.
One STEEL SAFE by Milner & Co.,
London, 31 x 26 x 28.
One UNDERWOOD TYPEWRITER,
and a number of Telegraphic Code
Books, etc., etc.
On view from Wednesday, the 27th
instant.
Terms:—as usual.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.
Hongkong, Mar. 22, 1918. 283

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions from the Liquidators of the Firm of Messrs. FURCHBERG LOWMEYER & Co., to sell by Public Auction,

FRIDAY,

the 29th April, 1918, commencing at
11 a.m., at Ma-tau-kok,
Kowloon City Road.

A QUANTITY OF SECOND-HAND CONTRACTORS' PLANT.

Two 15-hp. Invertible vertical double
crank compound set condensing twin
series direct action centrifugal pumping
engines (one left hand and one right
hand) steam cylinders 14 in. by 21 in. by
18 in. stroke with the necessary fittings
and suction and delivery pipes for a lift
of about 90 feet.

Two Gates Rock and Ore Breakers
(Allis Chalmers Co.) one No. 6 right
angle style and one No. 3 right angle
style with revolving screens, conveyors
and fittings.

One 50 in. by 10 in. Blake Crusher
(Fraser & Chalmers) with manganese
jaw plates.

Two Taylor's patent 1 yard Concrete
Mixers with Steel Framing and fittings,
various and spare gear.

One 6 in. Double Cylinder Manchester
Pump by Pearson & Co., and 2 1/2 in. cylinders.
14 in. stroke with suction and delivery
pipes about 90 ft.

One 7 1/2 H.P. double cyl. Boboy Port-
able Engine with usual fittings and
mountings.

One 5 in. Bolt-driven Centrifugal Pump
with suction and delivery pipes about
75-80 ft.

Also
A quantity of Steel Wire Rope, Old
Metal, &c.
On view from Sat. April.
Terms:—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.
Hongkong, Mar. 20, 1918. 101

INTIMATIONS



YOUR EYES

SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED

At the first symptom
of eye strain you should
consult us. We test
eyes scientifically and fit
glasses to individual re-
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Hongkong, March 20, 1918.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE

TUSCULUM, Barker Road, 155 Peak.

DUNCAN CLARK,

Lane, Crawford & Co.
Hongkong, Mar. 1, 1918. 189

FOR SALE.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell at their Sales
Rooms, No. 4, Des Vaux Road, Corner
of Ice House Street.

MOTOR YACHT

Build 1916, had very little usage,
Hull Teakwood
Length, water-line 29' 9"; over all 32'
Beam 8' 6"
Draft 3' 6"
Motor "Scorpio," Heavy duty 14 H.P.
Complete with Lavatory, Refrigerator,
a Suit of Sails, and all Accessories.
Price and full particulars may be had
from the Undersigned.

Terms:—Cash.
HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.
Hongkong, Jan. 9, 1918. 37

TO LET

TO LET.

OFFICES in York Building.

HOUSES on Shamone, Canton.

Apply to:
**THE HONGKONG LAND INVEST-
MENT & AGENCY Co., Ltd.**

TO LET.

FROM 1st May next, No. 1, ALMA
VILLAS, corner of Kimberley and
Austin Road, Kowloon. One six-roomed
house, with separate bath-rooms and
kitchen. Apply to:

PATELL & CO.

King's Buildings, Top Floor.

Hongkong, Mar. 22, 1918. 276

TO LET.

IMMEDIATE ENTRY for very
desirable SHOPS situated in the
Boulevard, opposite the Grand Hotel,
recently reconstructed.

For rent and other particulars apply
to the Manager, Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd.,
40 Connaught Road Central.
Hongkong, August 2, 1917. 200

TO LET.

FLAT in Nathan Road, Kowloon.

Four roomed houses in Kowloon.

Apply to:
**HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE
CO., LTD.**

Alexandra Buildings,
Hongkong, August 21, 1917.

BRITISH AND GERMAN PROCLAMATIONS.

A STUDY IN COMPARATIVE CULTURE.

The two documents below form a striking contrast. One is the official proclamation of General Allenby, the British Commander-in-Chief in Palestine upon the occasion of the British entry into Jerusalem; the other is the official proclamation issued by the headquarters of the German Military Government at Udine to the inhabitants remaining in the conquered Italian territory.

If fresh proof is needed of the different manner in which Great Britain and Germany wage war, it can be found in a perusal of the proclamations side by side.

Proclamation of General Allenby read to the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the steps of the Citadel, in Arabic, Hebrew, English, French, Italian, Greek and Russian:—
To the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Blessed and the people dwelling in the vicinity:—

The defeat inflicted upon the Turks by the troops under my command has resulted in the occupation of your city by my forces. I, therefore, here and now, proclaim it to be under martial law, under which form of administration it will remain so long as military considerations make it necessary. However, lest any of you should be alarmed by reason of your experience at the hands of the enemy who has retired, I hereby inform you that it is my desire that every person should pursue his lawful business without fear of interruption.

Furthermore, since your city is regarded with affection by three of the great religions of mankind, and its soil has been consecrated by the prayers and pilgrimages of devout people of these three religions for many centuries, therefore do I make it known unto you that every sacred building, monument, holy spot, shrine, traditional site, endowment, pious bequest, or customary place of prayer, will be maintained and protected according to the existing customs and beliefs of those to whose faiths they are sacred.

Guards have been placed at Bethlehem and at Rachel's tomb. The tomb at Hebron has been placed under exclusive Moslem control. The hereditary custodians of the Walf at the gates of the Holy Sepulchre have been requested to take up their accustomed duties in remembrance of the magnanimous act of the Caliph Omar, who protected that church.

GERMANY'S WAR PROFITS.

"NO ANNEXTATIONS" IN A TRUE LIGHT.

THE TRIUMPH OF PRUSSIANISM.

Germany's economic gain by the war, were it to end now, is made clear by M. André Cheradame, the eminent authority on Pan-Germanism, in a popular pamphlet on "German war profits and the German formula: 'No annexations, no indemnities.'" Points of his analysis of German war profits are given in "The Times."

M. Cheradame shows that in three years the domain of German militarism has increased from an area of 540,000 square kilometres, inhabited by 66,000,000 of people, to an area of 5,600,000 square kilometres, containing 180,000,000 inhabitants, and reveals that the Russian Soviets' "No annexations, no indemnities" formula on March 28th was inspired by German agents. Its acceptance would mean:—

(1) Germany would keep her grip on her essential territorial acquisitions.
(2) The Allies would be left with the crushing burden of their own unprecedented war expenditure.
(3) Germany would retain her gigantic war profits, which are infinitely greater than the losses she has suffered.
28,400,000,000 marks.

M. Cheradame analyses serialism the chief war profits of Germany. On the basis of the proportionate estimated wealth before the war of the countries and territories occupied, he calculates the value of these territories at approximately 28,400,000,000. Apart from this value, Germany has secured transportable booty in the shape of:—

(1) Human material for labour.
(2) Immense quantities of war material, rolling stock, and means of transport. The Belgian railways alone are worth 120,000,000.
(3) Horses, cattle, and foodstuffs generally.
(4) Raw materials, such as coal, mineral oils, iron, copper, wood, cotton. In the industrial towns of North-Eastern France alone the Germans seized 222,000,000 worth of wool.
(5) The materials of industry—motors, machine tools, dynamo.

COUGHING INTO CONSUMPTION

"Only a Cough" but you stop it while it is ONLY a cough.

**WATERBURY'S
METABOLIZED
COD LIVER OIL
COMPOUND**

The finest preparation made for combatting severe coughs. CURES any cough, fast, is only a cough. Very palatable.

OF ALL CHEMISTS.

Prices: 1/6 and 2/6.

once negotiations are begun, they can be used to divide the Allies and finally to dupe them into conceding the essential German conditions. Therefore, adds M. Cheradame, the Allies must reject utterly the German formula of which the application would entail their ruin, and must oppose to it the democratic formula of Restitution, Reparation, and Guarantees—that is to say, punishment for crimes committed, reparation of damage done, and guarantees against any renewal of such a war.

DUTCH POLITICS.

OBLIGING THE GERMANS.

In the Second Chamber, on February 27th, Herr Beresyn attacked the Dutch Minister Posthuma's ability in appointing different commissions, the abuse of power, corruption of officials and the crooked line followed in affairs with foreign countries. He said that on October 17th two committees negotiated at the same time, one with Germany and one with England. The committee with England promised that no horses should be sent to Germany, but the committee with Germany promised to export 18,000 horses. The iron stipules promised for the shippers had not arrived. He expressed the opinion that the Dutch Government was very obliging to Germany. We pay, he said, enormous prices to Germany for coal and iron, whilst Germany in ratio pays far less for our butter and cheese. The export of 5,000 horses was allowed in return for the transit of cement between Switzerland and Holland. He asked how the horse export was regulated now. The farmers profited and Minister Posthuma was putting profits into the farmers' pockets but not through the feeding of the population. Big profits were also being made by margarine and sugar manufacturers. Minister Posthuma was squandering public money.

The "Telegraaf" publishes an article by Herr Beresyn advising the stopping of the export of cheese and butter when the contract with Germany ends in March, as the security at home is having an ill influence on the general health, especially of workpeople's children. He calculates that the area planted with cereals has decreased since 1915 and says the Minister's measures against the cultivation of plants for trading speculation have failed as the percentage of such cultivation for 1917 is higher even than the average for 1918-1915.

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KING EDWARD HOTEL

Central Location
ALL Kowloon Train Pass Entrances,
Electric Lifts, Fans and Lighting,
European Baths and Sanitary Fixtures,
Hot and Cold Water System throughout.
Best of Food and Service.

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COAL DEPARTMENT.

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& OYUBARI COLLIERIES.

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HARAKI, MOJI, KANAWA, WAKAMATSU,
OZAWA, MINORU, HAKODATE, KOBAYASHI,
OSAKA, KURE, TOKYO, YOKOHAMA,
NAGOYA, TSURUGA, VLADEVOSTOK,
HANKOW, PEKING, DALIEN,
Tientsin, London, New York,
Shanghai, Hongkong,
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and Singapore.

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MANILA: Messrs. Macantray & Co.

SINGAPORE: Messrs. Borneo Co. Ltd.

GLASGOW: Messrs. A. H. Brown & Co.

For Particulars, apply to

S. KAWATE,
Manager,
No. 1, PRINCE STREET,
HONGKONG.

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AND CO.**

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**JOHN
HADDON
AND CO.**

Colonial Merchants
and Produce Agents,

SALISBURY SQUARE, LONDON, E.C.



**WAR NEWS.
OFFICIAL
BRITISH ARMY
STILL GOING
STRONG.**

JOHNNIE WALKER—"Still going strong" that's the slogan. It's been mine since 1820.

JOHNNIE WALKER "White Label" 6 years old.
JOHNNIE WALKER "Red Label" 10 years old.
JOHNNIE WALKER "Black Label" 12 years old.
Guaranteed same quality throughout the world.

Agents General, CALDBECK, MACGREGOR & CO.
JOHN WALKER & SONS, LTD., Scotch Whisky Distillers, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND.

Variety of Uses.

The uses to which LEA & PERRINS' SAUCE can be put are innumerable.

At Luncheon, Dinner or Supper, it is the ideal sauce for Roast Meats, Fish, Game, Cheese, Salad, etc.

In the Kitchen, it is indispensable to the cook for flavouring Soups, Steaks, Gravy, Minced Meat, etc.

In India, a favourite "Pick-up" is Lea & Perrins' Sauce with Soda water.

Lea & Perrins
The Original and Genuine
Worcestershire

WATSON'S PYERIS.

An exact reproduction of a well-known Spa at half the price.
Blends perfectly with Spirits, especially Whisky.

"A little learning is a dangerous thing,
Drink deep or touch not the Pyrian Spring,
There shallow draughts intoxicate the Brain
And drinking deeply sobers us again."—Pope.

Pints 90 Cts. Per Doz.
Splits 60 " " "

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,
AERATED WATER MANUFACTURERS.

To-day's Advertisements

UNIVERSITY OF HONGKONG.

THE UNIVERSITY requires the services of a part-time TEACHER of Practical Chemistry for four afternoon weekly, commencing in September next. Applications to be addressed to THE REGISTRAR.
Hongkong, March 27, 1918.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OFFICE.

NOTICE.

BUTTER AND MARGARINE.

THE attention of Owners, Agents and Masters of Ships is directed to the fact that the exportation of Butter and Margarine, whether as SHIP'S STORES or CARGO, is absolutely PROHIBITED, except under permit from this Office. Permits will only be granted for such quantities as are considered necessary for food use as on Ship's Stores. All applications for permits must be marked "For use on board the S.S." only and must be signed by the Ship's Owners, Agents or Masters who will be held responsible for any breach of the Conditions of such Permit.

D. W. TRATHAM,
Superintendent,
Imports and Exports.
Hongkong, March 27, 1918.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

NOTICE.

IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that on and after the 1st proximo and until further notice, the following Roads will be CLOSED to ALL except pedestrian traffic:

From Shanikwan to Taitam Tuk.
From Taitam Tuk to Stanley.
From Stanley to Repulse Bay.

W. CHATHAM,
Director of Public Works.
Public Works Department,
Hongkong, March 27, 1918.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE undersigned have received instructions from Messrs. A. R. MARY & Co. to sell by Public Auction,

SATURDAY,

the 30th March, 1918, at 11 a.m., at Third Floor, St. George's Buildings, (above Messrs. Shaw, James & Co.'s office),

SUNDAY

VALUABLE OFFICE FURNITURE, therein contained.

Consisting of—
Desks, Counters, Shelves, Stationery Cupboards, &c., &c.

Also
Bound volumes Hongkong Government Gazette from 1884 to 1893 inclusive

And
One TYPEWRITER.

On view from Friday, the 29th, at Noon.
Terms—Cash.

HUGHES & HUGHES,
Auctioneers.

Hongkong, March 27, 1918.

(Continued on Page 8.)

THE CALENDAR.

MEMO FOR TO-MORROW.

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Furniture by Messrs. Hughes & Hough at No. 28 Jordan Road, Kowloon.

GENERAL MEMORANDA.

Friday, March 29—
Good Friday.

Sunday, March 31—
Easter Sunday.

Wednesday, April 3—
2.30 p.m.—Auction of Furniture at Hughes & Hough's.

2.30 p.m.—Auction of Household Linens, &c. at Hughes & Hough's.

Friday, April 5—
11 a.m.—Auction of Messrs. Parnell, Lowther & Co.'s Contractors' plant at Mataukok.

Saturday, April 13—
3 p.m.—Marathon Race.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Parcel Post Service to Shensi and Kansu provinces is suspended.

His Honour Judge Skinner Turner, of H. M. Supreme Court, Shanghai, leaves for England at the end of this month on home leave. Mr. Skinner Turner will accompany him.

The managing partner of the Yuen Wo Company at 61, Connaught Road Central has reported to the Police that between March 22 and 23, their store at 111, Canton Road, Kowloon, was broken into and 20 barrels of paraffin wax valued at \$1,200 were stolen.

The Hon. Treasurer of the Alice Memorial and Affiliated Hospitals begs to acknowledge with thanks the following donations to the funds of the Hospitals:

J. D. Hutchison & Co.	\$100
Reiss & Co.	100
Alex. Ross & Co.	100
D. Sassoon & Co., Ltd.	100
E. D. Sassoon & Co.	100
H. Scott & Co.	100
Dodwell & Co., Ltd.	75
W. G. Humphreys & Co.	55
Asiatic Petroleum Co. (South China), Ltd.	50
Bradley & Co., Ltd.	50

The marriage took place recently at Shanghai of Miss Clarice Leslie, Kensington, Sydney, Australia, and Mr. Stuart Williamson, manager of Messrs. Moller and Co., Ltd., Hongkong. The ceremony was performed at H.M. Consulate-General before Sir Everard Fraser, K.C.M.G., and afterwards at the Cathedral by the Very Rev. Dean Walker. The bride recently arrived in Shanghai from Australia and the wedding was necessarily a quiet one. After the ceremony at the Cathedral the newly married couple were entertained to luncheon at Mr. Eric Moller's house in Route Ghisi, where a few intimate friends gathered to convey congratulations. Mr. and Mrs. Williamson, who were the recipients of some very beautiful presents, left in the afternoon for an up-country trip in a motor houseboat.

THE MAGISTRACY.

A MISTAKE THAT COST HIM DEAR.

Before Mr. A. Dyer Ball this morning, a dockyard labourer was charged with the theft of a quantity of brass valued at \$4 from the Kowloon Dock. Defendant, who pleaded not guilty, said he forgot to take the brass back in the locker when he left the Dock. An Indian watchman said the brass was found concealed about defendant's person as he was leaving the dock last night.

Mr. Dyer Ball sentenced the defendant to one month's hard labour and four hours' stocks.

ALLEGED SNATCHING.

A Chinese pleaded not guilty when charged before Mr. Dyer Ball this morning with snatching a pair of gold earrings from a Chinese woman at Des Voeux Road yesterday.

Mr. Stevenson appeared for the defence.

Mr. Dyer Ball—What had do you suggest Inspector Macdonald? A substantial bail, your Honour.

Mr. Stevenson—I would suggest \$25.

Inspector Macdonald—And I would suggest a \$500 bail.

The bail was finally fixed at \$300, and the case was remanded until next week.

ALLEGED BRIBERY.

Two Chinese were brought before Mr. Dyer Ball this morning on the charge of attempting to bribe a lagoon.

Inspector Bruce was the defendant who was being tried with a Chinese man in Jarvis Street were commissioned by several men to export from the Colony a quantity of opium. They were coming back from their mission with about five bags of opium in their possession when a lagoon met them. They were searched and one of the men offered the lagoon \$50 cents. The lagoon said he arrested the defendant at the defence said the opium was Government opium.

Mr. Dyer Ball remanded the case until next week being fixed at \$50.

A YOUNG THIEF.

Mr. Alderman of the Naval Dockyard charged his "boy" before Mr. Wood this morning with the theft of two ten-cent pieces from a drawer in his house at 183 Vaneau Road.

It was stated that the complainant had lost over \$40 in that drawer recently.

The defendant, a lad of 16 admitted theft and was sentenced to three weeks' hard labour.

A LIFE SAVER.

It is safe to say that Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy has saved the lives of more people and relieved more suffering than any other remedy in existence. It is known all over the civilized world for the speedy cure of cholera in the stomach, diarrhoea and all intestinal pains. For sale by all Chemists and Dispensaries.

COMPANY MEETINGS.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The forty-ninth ordinary meeting of shareholders of the above Company was held at the offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ltd., to-day at 11 a.m.

The Hon. Mr. D. LANDALE presided, and there were present the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Sir Robert Ho Tung, the Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Mr. C. S. Gubbay, Mr. H. P. White and Mr. F. Maitland, (Consulting Committee), Mr. L. N. Lees (Secretary) and the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook and Messrs. D. V. Stevenson, H. Percy Smith, Ho Leung, G. K. Haxton, C. A. da Rosa, Lo Chan Shih, C. W. Bewick, G. Grimble and A. R. Lowe.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, You will, I have no doubt, agree to my following the usual course of taking the Report and Accounts as read, for they have been in your hands for some time.

The underwriting operations for the period under review have, I am glad to say, again been very successful. The loss ratio for the closed year works out at as low as 36.24. The expense ratio is very moderate, and a substantial profit therefore has to be recorded for 1917. For 1917 also the underwriting results are, up to date, quite good, and if the second year's experience is up to the average we should again have a good profit to show on the termination of this year. Losses in the Far Eastern field have, if anything, been more numerous than usual. There have been large outbreaks in European occupied properties in the Philippines, in Kobe, and Hankow and Shanghai, and so we must, I think, regard ourselves as fortunate in having so good a result to show. The most adverse influence on our figures has been exchange. A year ago my predecessor in the Chair made reference to the 'diminution' which had been thus caused in the value of our Gold Assets expressed in local currency; and, of course, a corresponding shrinkage also occurs in the profits of our gold using Agencies affecting our Working Account. Since that date exchange has had a yet larger rise—from 2/4 to 3/—an increase of 25%. It is remarkable, I think, that in spite of this the Premium Income of the Company is at a level which was only exceeded in 1915. Our holding in British Indian and Colonial Government securities has increased by £23,000, due to further purchases of British and Colonial War Loans. One of the results of this larger acquisition of gold assets has been that the amount held in reserve, to the credit of Investment and Exchange Fluctuation Account has proved insufficient, and as a loss actually occurred in 1917 the Working Account of that year has been debited with a sum sufficient to meet this, and leave a small balance to the credit of this Fund. Exchange, since the turn of the year, has risen still further, and the Consulting Committee regard it as wise, therefore, to pass the further sum of \$98,034.73 from the profits of Working Account 1916 to the credit of this Account. I regard this continuous writing on as constituting practically a hidden reserve, for it is quite clear that whenever exchange resorts to the level of pre-war days there will be an automatic return of a very large amount of dollars to the Company.

The Company's holding in Foreign Gold Loans is reduced, for an investment, referred to at our last Annual Meeting, in the Bonds of the Russian Government, has had to be heavily written down since the finances of that unfortunate country became involved in the throes and stress of the disintegrating influences of the gigantic revolution which is shaking the entire structure of that vast nation. You will, I make no doubt, applaud the action of the management in again contributing \$5,000 to the local fund for the support of war charities, which received, I am glad to tell you, your hearty approval a year ago. After making these provisions and appropriations, and adding \$25,000 to the credit of Reserve Fund we are able to recommend the payment out of the Working Account 1916 of the usual dividend of \$27 per share, and I should add that the staff has not been forgotten. The pressure upon them is heavier and the difficulties of management grow greater in times such as these, and it will, I hope, have been in accordance with your wishes that the Consulting Committee voted a bonus of 15% on their salaries as was paid last year. During the course of 1917, an Ordinance was passed affecting Fire and Marine Insurance Companies transacting business in the Colony, as was fore-shadowed in the Chairman's speech a year ago, and a similar measure has also become law in the Straits Settlements and is contemplated. I understand, also, by the Government of the Federated Malay States. The passing of the local Ordinance had our support, and we believe it will be of benefit to the cause of peace and sound insurance business generally. Upon the question of the new jubilee year, it is too much to expect that when this time next year we cast our eyes back on the progress and activities of this small but vigorous

local Company, the feeling of satisfaction with which we may expect to contemplate them may no longer be overshadowed by the world's greatest tragedy, but that we may enter upon our 61st year of existence with the terror of the war behind us.

I now have pleasure in moving—
That the Report and Accounts as presented, including the payment of a dividend of \$27 per share; an addition of \$98,034.73 to the Investment and Exchange Fluctuation Account; of \$25,000 to the Reserve Fund; and the payment of a bonus to staff of 15% upon their salaries be adopted and passed.

Mr. D. V. STEVENSON seconded, and the motion was carried.

Mr. G. K. HAXTON proposed, and Mr. C. A. da Rosa seconded, the re-election to the Consulting Committee of the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., Sir Robert Ho Tung, the Hon. Mr. E. Shellim and Messrs H. P. White, F. Maitland and C. S. Gubbay, and the motion was carried.

Mr. C. W. BESWICK proposed, and the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook seconded, the re-election of Mr. H. Percy Smith and Mr. A. R. Lowe as auditors for the ensuing year, at a remuneration of \$500 each, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN then announced that Dividend Warrants were ready and the meeting terminated.

THE CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

The fortieth ordinary meeting of the shareholders of the above Company was held at the offices of Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ltd., to-day at 11.30 a.m.

The Hon. Mr. D. LANDALE presided and there were present the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., the Hon. Mr. E. Shellim, Mr. A. O. Lang, Mr. H. P. White, and Mr. F. Maitland, (Consulting Committee), Mr. G. M. Shaw, (Manager), Mr. C. W. Bewick, (Secretary) and the Hon. Mr. Ho Fook, Messrs A. R. Lowe, A. J. David, E. J. Grist, F. Smythe, F. M. P. da Graça, A. Crapnell, Lo Cheung Shiu, P. C. Potts, J. W. Stewart, Chow Po Sien, S. E. da Luz, Ho Kwong, H. R. Hancock, A. G. C. da Silva, E. M. Austin, D. G. M. Bernard, A. C. Davidson and H. M. H. Nemaze.

The CHAIRMAN said—Gentlemen, The Statement of accounts with the Auditors certificate attached having been in your hands for some days, I will with your permission, take them as read. The result of the year's working shows a decrease of \$1,492.87 as compared with 1916, the actual net profit for the year being \$87,932.60 as against \$89,425.47.

The usual Interim Dividend of \$2 per share was paid in August last and we now propose paying a final dividend of \$9 per share which I trust you will consider satisfactory. We are also in a position to add to our provision for contingencies amount to the extent of \$15,000 and carry forward \$14,432.00. Sales of Ice show a slight increase over 1916 which, when it is borne in mind that owing to the large increase in cost it was found necessary to increase the price by 2 cent per lb. must be considered satisfactory. The Cold Storage Branch however shows a decrease in revenue this year owing to the partial stoppage of the export of meat. Your Manager reports that all machinery and buildings at the works are in first class order and all launches and lighters have received their annual overhaul. Your General Managers have, recently been approached by the Dairy Farm Co. with a view to their acquiring the business and undertaking of this Company. Their offer has been carefully considered and as your General Managers and your Consulting Committee are of opinion that an amalgamation would be to the advantage of Shareholders has been provisionally accepted. A provisional agreement has been signed. Both offer and acceptance are, however, conditional upon the sanction of general meetings of the shareholders of each Company. The main terms of the Agreement are: the acquisition of the undertaking and business of this Company in return for the issue to shareholders of eight shares of the Dairy Farm Co. of \$7,500 each, fully paid in respect of each share as fully paid in respect of each share in this Company. It is proposed that our business be taken over from the 1st January last and that the accounts of the working of the two Companies be kept separate until the 31st July next. Provided the profits made by each working justly such a course an interim dividend equal to the interim dividend of \$2 per share which has been paid for the last 3 years will then be paid in respect of the Dairy Farm shares to be issued to Shareholders of this Company. After the 31st July the accounts of both businesses will be combined and the profits divided among Shareholders in the Dairy Farm Company of which the proposed future name is 'The Dairy Farm, Ice and Cold Storage Co., Ltd.' It is also a part of the arrangement that your General Managers shall receive 2,000 shares in the Dairy Farm Company, of \$7.50 each, credited as fully paid up in consideration of certain restrictive covenants entered into by them and by way of bonus as compensation for their loss of office. An Extraordinary Meeting will be called shortly in connection with this matter and I have no doubt that you will then express your approval of the Agreement.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., seconded, the adoption of the Report and Accounts, and the motion was carried.

The Hon. Mr. Ho Fook proposed and Mr. C. W. BESWICK seconded, the re-election to the Consulting Committee of the Hon. Sir Paul Chater, C.M.G., and the Rev. Father Robert, and the motion was carried.

Mr. Lo Cheung Shiu proposed, and Mr. A. R. Lowe seconded, the re-election of Mr. H. Percy Smith and Mr. A. R. Lowe as auditors for the ensuing year, at a remuneration of \$200 each, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN then announced that Dividend Warrants were ready and the meeting terminated.

THE RACE COURSE INQUIRY.

After Chief Inspector Kerr's examination yesterday, Det-Sgt. Hollands gave evidence. This witness detailed the steps he took to obtain the services of the Fire Brigade. Finding he could not send for the Fire Brigade through the telephone, witness got a motor-car and drove to No. 1 Station for a despatch box and returned within ten minutes of the collapse of the sheds.

Sgt. Marks also gave corroborative evidence regarding the poor pressure of water at the hydrants.

Sgt. F. Pitt, who was at the Fire Brigade Station when the collapse occurred said that when the alarm was given, he obtained all available assistance and proceeded on a motor tandem to the race course. The journey took about six or seven minutes. They had enough water from the three hydrants to one delivery as a pressure of about 90 lbs from the nozzle.

SOUNDS OF LASHINGS BEING CUT.

Li Po Lung, a property owner residing at 16 Des Voeux Road deposed that he was in shed No. 12 when the collapse occurred. About ten minutes to three o'clock his son told him that it seemed to him that some one was cutting the lashings below their shed. Witness heard three distinct sounds as though the lashings at the bottom of the sheds were being cut. He was standing, he felt an upright pole moving and told his children to run. They made for the exit, but when they got to the staircase the place was choked with people and the shed fell before they could get out. The floor, where he was standing sank like a lift.

By the Coroner—He did not think the sounds he heard were the cracking of lashings. He heard the sound of cutting at three regular and distinct intervals.

By Mr. Bowley—He did not know whether his younger brother heard the noises or not. He did not speak to him about them. He spoke of the noises to Mr. Potts some two days after the disaster.

By the Coroner—He did not warn the people because he men selling the sweeps called out to them not to run as nothing would happen. His party was the only one to run, but there was some excitement amongst other people.

When the inquiry was resumed this morning, Li Shi Piu son of Mr. Li Po Lung was called to give evidence. The boy who gave his age as 15 said he was with his father in shed No. 12 on the day of the disaster. He was on the lower floor. He heard sounds and thought the shed was falling. He believed the noise was caused by the lashings being cut below him. He heard the noise before the collapse. He did not see anyone cutting the lashings. The shed fell about one or two minutes after he heard the noises. He told his father that the shed was about to fall and asked him to listen to the noise. He stood listening for some time before he told his father. He did not tell his father that men were cutting the lashings. He did not think the noise was caused by the burning of the lashings as the sounds were different. The sounds he heard were regular and distinct.

By Mr. Wakenham—He did not go to the basement of this shed and did not know what it was used for.

By a Juror—He had not heard the burning of bamboo lashings before.

By Mr. Bowley—He had often watched men taking down bamboo scaffolding and had often seen them cutting the lashings.

The managing partner of the 'Tsz Hop' firm was again recalled and in reply to the Coroner that the models of Sheds 8 and 9 were made by him. Witness then gave a detailed description of the exits of all the sheds from sheds 1 to 16 describing in detail the situation of the stairways and the doors, and the number of entrances to each of the sheds.

By the Coroner—The doors in all the sheds were simple openings. All the floors in the sheds sloped towards the Race Course so that people further back in the sheds could obtain a view of the races.

W. J. Morrison, a volunteer fireman, said he assisted at the fire at the Race Course. Witness and some other persons attempted to throw buckets of water on the fire, but were unable to get near the fire owing to the great heat.

R. Main, another volunteer fireman, said he believed that if the hose had been ready and full of water, and turned on the exact spot where the fire commenced, it might have been possible to extinguish the fire. Every thing possible was done.

By the Coroner—He had some experience of fire in Shanghai and Tientsin.

Det-Sgt. Field said he was assisting in the rescue work, until the fire compelled them to stop. He then assisted in the fire.

By Mr. Bowley—The first branch of hose played on the fire at the right hand side of shed No. 19. He examined the sheds at about 2.45 p.m. that day. He did not notice anything unusual.

Li Po Hong of No. 3 Lower Castle Road said he was in shed 12 on the day of the collapse. He was on the lower floor. He did not hear anything. He saw people run and came to follow them when the shed came down. He heard from his brother that the matched lashings had been cut but could not say whether it was true or not.

By Mr. Bowley—He heard it from his brother a few days after the disaster.

By a Juror—He spoke to his brother through the telephone on the night of the collapse and he mentioned was made with regard to the cutting of lashings. The inquiry is proceeding.

THE GREAT BATTLE.

REPORTS AND SPECULATIONS.

(Continued from Page 1.)

MAGNIFICENT GALLANTRY OF OUR TROOPS.

ENEMY'S LOSSES PRODIGIOUS.

London, Mar. 25.
 Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, wiring on the evening of the 25th, says:—
 The titanic struggle continues unabated.

Although the enemy artillery firing shows a tendency to decrease owing to the increasing difficulties of advancing the guns, on the other hand no stage of the war has seen such close infantry fighting.

Yesterday, British infantry made a bayonet charge, broke the enemy ranks and secured 125 prisoners. One battalion of the Twenty-Fourth Division captured a post in a great quarry commanding one of the main lines of the enemy advance and fought to the last man, delaying the enemy and piling up corpses in a semi-circular barricade, breast high, around the quarry.

The manner in which guns, tanks and transports were withdrawn behind the retiring line constitutes a marvellous feat.

After crossing the Somme, we blew up all the bridges except one which was so commanded by our guns that it was deemed advantageous to leave it.

The enemy's casualties, in their efforts to cross the Somme, have been prodigious. Again and again, massed parties on rafts and pontoons were annihilated by the guns. Ultimately, a passage was effected by the famous Brandenburg Iron Corps, near Liourt, under a hailstorm of fire, but only after innumerable failures.

At a certain place a large force of the enemy had thrust their way through and gained, what promised to develop into, a distinct tactical advantage, but, during an enemy pause to re-organize, ten tanks advanced and caused havoc in the German ranks, and finally drove them back.

The scenes on the roads leading to the rear have been most remarkable during the past three days, with parties of civilians and villagers shepherded by soldiers, mixed labour groups, impassive Orientals in all varieties of headgear, African natives grinning as though the thing was a huge joke, here a clay-caked armoured car speeding back for ammunition, there a motor lorry stacked with maps and records, with a red-batted Officer perched on the top.

Fulfilling their traditional crush-through tactics, the German infantry is pushing forward, unsupported by artillery.

The German High Command is trusting, by an overwhelming weight, to break down all resistance, thus affording unique opportunities for our field-guns to spray the human swarms, while yesterday at High Wood and Delville Wood machine-guns simply carpeted the earth with corpses, before retiring. Before long the Fatherland must be asking the price at which the offensive is being waged.

The weather is becoming unsettled. The glass is falling.

The latest news is that fighting of the fiercest description is continuing.

THE ARMY'S IMMEDIATE PROBLEM.

London, Mar. 26.
 The Times notes with pride and satisfaction the fortitude with which the country is facing a grave situation. It says: Our one desire is that the Government should not lose time in making whatever fresh demand may be required of the civilian population.

The Times points out that the Germans have not succeeded in their supreme object of driving a wedge between the British and French Armies, and says the prospect of such a success is more remote. It says the immediate problem is whether the British and French forces are able to re-occupy approximately the 1916 line.

EXTENSION OF NATIONAL SERVICE.

NO EXEMPTIONS OF ANY NATURE.

London, Mar. 26.

The Morning Post demands the immediate convocation of Parliament for the purpose of sanctioning an extension of the National Service, raising the military age and abolishing all exemptions, including conscientious objectors. Departmental indisputables, and the Irish. The Morning Post is confident that no trouble from Labour need be apprehended.

DETAILED STATEMENT OF WAR PROGRESS DEMANDED.

The Daily News demands a more detailed statement of the progress of the battle from Headquarters and says that if it is unfavourable news the public prefer to learn it from their own officials' statement than from the Germans.

AMERICA AND THE WAR.

RUSH FOR ENLISTMENT.

Washington, Mar. 26.

General Wood, testifying before the Senate Military Committee, declared that military experts were unanimously confident that the German offensive will fail. He recommended that an American Army of two million men be maintained abroad as soon as possible and another two millions be trained.

New York, Mar. 26.
 The news of the fighting has stimulated recruiting. There was a rush by applicants for enlistment yesterday.

PRESIDENT WILSON CONGRATULATES SIR DOUGLAS HAIG.

Washington, Mar. 26.

President Wilson cabled to Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig congratulating him on the British stand and predicting a final victory.

ACTIVITY BEHIND GERMAN LINES.

London, Mar. 26.

Mr. Philip Gibbs, a Press Correspondent, telegraphs:—
 British heavy and field-guns were handled with marvellous discipline in rearguard actions in positions which became untenable. The gunners were firing for hours at masses of Germans, moving in the close vicinity, causing deadly losses, but the masses did not cease to advance.

Some guns were abandoned, but many were withdrawn across the Somme, the gunners taking up new positions and re-entering into action like an exhibition of batteries.

Mr. Percival Phillips, another Press Correspondent, telegraphs:—
 A very remarkable feature of the German advance has been the rapid movement of heavy guns. This phase of open warfare was carefully rehearsed for months. The British airmen saw howitzers lumbering along the roads in endless columns, motor lorries bringing up shells to new positions, guns come to action anywhere, and open field batteries were repeatedly seen galloping boldly across rising ground less than a mile from the British. Behind the advancing armies comes another army of workmen, repairing the destroyed railways and bridges, erecting new hospitals and aerodromes. The offensive in the air is prosecuted with equal vigour. Large formations of Gothas have every night tried to cut communications and dropped unusually heavy explosives, but the damage done has been insignificant.

ENEMY GENERAL'S VIEWS.

Zurich, Mar. 26.

General Aussenberg, interviewed by a Budapest newspaper, said this decisive battle will last for some time. The forces of the Central Powers, thousands of kilometres away, may still be engaged, in which case the final decision may be dependent on them, after immense losses on both sides.

COL. REPINGTON'S VIEWS.

Lisbon, Mar. 26.

Col. Repington, in the Morning Post, says:—

Bapaume and Peronne have fallen four days after the German scheduled time, and there is every reason to hope that the flood will soon be stayed and turned back. The combatants in the central sector are now fighting in the devastated area of the Somme Battle. Further west are the trenches the British held before July, 1916, and before the retirement brings the British to these trenches such a strong line of troops should be formed that the further progress of the enemy should be arrested.

FRENCH FRONT.

FURIOUS AND CEASELESS GERMAN ATTACKS.

London, Mar. 26.

A French communiqué states:—
 Furiously and ceaselessly the enemy is bringing in reinforcements. Our troops are obeying orders and are yielding ground foot by foot, delivering vigorous counter-attacks and inflicting heavy losses.

A desperate fight occurred round Nesle, which changed hands several times.

Rheims has received 1,875 shells during the past 24 hours.

HARD FIGHTING BETWEEN BAPAUME AND PERONNE.

London, Mar. 25.

A wireless German official report states:—

There is hard fighting between Bapaume and Peronne. We drove back the enemy here to positions he held before 1916 during the Somme Battle.

Our troops are fighting their way forward between the Somme and the Oise.

GERMAN PRESS ADMISSIONS.

STUPENDOUS TASK STILL AHEAD.

London, Mar. 26.

The German newspapers are preparing the public for a long struggle. The Cologne Gazette reminds the people that the Germans are dealing with a very formidable enemy, and a stupendous task is still ahead, as the British are fighting with extraordinary determination and bravery.

The Cologne Volkszeitung says the gigantic struggle cannot be shortly ended, perhaps not for months.

Several papers point out that the Allies' general reserve have not as yet been called on.

A CHARACTERISTIC MESSAGE BY THE KAISER TO KAISERIN.

AMSTERDAM, Mar. 26.

A Berlin message says the Kaiser has telegraphed to the Kaiserin, stating, inter alia, that the troops are pressing on westward from Bapaume, and farther south are advancing on Albert and that the Somme had been crossed at many points above Peronne, and claiming the capture of enormous quantities of ammunition and provisions "just as after the 1916 battle."

KAISER DECORATES HIS GENERALS.

AMSTERDAM, Mar. 25.

A message from Berlin states that the Kaiser, at Main Headquarters, on the 24th instant, conferred on Field-Marshal von Hindenburg the Iron Cross with gold rays, hitherto only conferred on Prince Blucher. He conferred on General von Ludendorff the Grand Cross of the Iron Cross, on Departmental Chiefs at Headquarters Oakleaves, etc., to the rest of the Departmental Chiefs the Kaiser presented a copy of his portrait with his signature and date of the battle "21st to 23rd March, 1918."

GERMAN DESTROYERS BOMBED.

NAVAL AIR-RAID ON TORPEDO BOATS.

London, Mar. 25.

The Admiralty states:—
 Naval aeroplanes of "Dunkirk" between the 21st and 24th instant, destroyed ten enemy machines and brought down seven out of control.

We brought down a hostile balloon and carried on three bombing raids on the Bruges docks. Many direct hits were secured on the sheds and upon the quays. Bombs burst close to the destroyers.

Aeroplane attacked several torpedo boats, a destroyer and an armed trawler.

A pilot, who was forced to descend to sea, was picked up by a French destroyer.

All others returned.

EARLIER TELEGRAMS.

THE WESTERN FRONT.

GERMAN ADVANCE SLOWING DOWN.

THE TERRIBLE PRICE OF THEIR PROGRESS.

London, Mar. 25.

This afternoon's British communiqué has deepened the confidence that the British will hold the enemy.

Reports from Allied capitals breathe equal belief in the ability of the British soldiers to wear down the enemy. Paris is particularly sanguine. News that the French had joined in led to expectations of important developments on the British right, regarding which, however, the communiqués and comment are reserved.

According to the latest despatch from Mr. Philip Gibbs, after four days of the most terrible slaughter, the German advance is slowing down. The price they have paid for the ground won is simply stupendous, the casualties ranging from "anywhere between 30 to 75 per cent of their forces engaged, while the fighting units are hungry, exhausted, dazed and depressed at the receding prospect of the promised decisive victory."

Their progress has been stopped and it seems certain that our armies are now able to control the situation within the limits of safety. We are holding good lines and the blackest shadows are beginning to lift.

THE FRENCH TAKE A HAND.

London, Mar. 25.

A French communiqué states:—
 French troops began, on March 23rd, to intervene in the battle on the British Front. They relieved part of the British forces and took up the struggle on their own account. They are at present heroically fighting in the region of Noyon, disputing the heights on the right of the Oise with important German forces.

There are violent artillery actions in the region of Courcy and Loivre, and north-west of Rheims.

Two enemy corps d'armée east of Suippe, in Champagne, broke down.

There is great artillery activity between Arrancourt and the Vosges.

The enemy, at dawn, attacked east of Bleney and east of Badonviller but was repulsed with heavy losses.

"CRUSHING" TACTICS CONTINUED.

London, Mar. 25.

Reuter's Correspondent at British Headquarters, telegraphing to-day, says:—
 Throughout the long hours of bright sunlight yesterday and in the moonlight the "Germans" continued their crushing tactics against our troops, who have fought their way to their rearguard positions with valiant stubbornness. The enemy maintains the same old tactics, relying on weight and constantly pushing fresh troops through his tired divisions. These new troops press forward without waiting for artillery support. The enemy is employing many small bodies of Uhlans, mainly as scouting patrols.

This morning we are counter-attacking between Nesle and Ham. The French are also in action.

North of Bapaume, the enemy attacked with considerable forces at dawn, but did not pass our barrage.

German agents are spreading alarming reports amongst the civilian population in the neighbourhood of the battle zone. These agents are summarily dealt with.

The spread of the enemy effort is still directed against the old Somme battle-ground where our troops have been slowly falling back upon new positions under tremendous pressure, destroying everything likely to be useful to the Germans en route.

Hostile airmen were very active throughout last night, bombing our communications; but they show little inclination to compete with our airmen in the daylight.

The situation in many places remains very confused, which is natural in a fighting that has assumed more of the character of a war of movement than at any time since the Battle of the Marne.

The spirit and determination of our troops are beyond words.

The enemy's losses continue to be enormous.

BRITISH TROOPS FIGHTING SPLENDIDLY.

London, Mar. 25.

The Press Bureau states:—
 Our troops this morning, on the Somme northward to Wancourt, beat off continuous heavy attacks with complete success, our artillery and machine guns inflicting heavy losses.

Our low-flying aeroplanes are repeatedly attacking the enemy's advancing columns farther in the rear.

A heavy attack in the afternoon by fresh enemy troops enabled them to progress westward and south-westward of Bapaume in the direction of Courcy. Late in the evening, pressed back southward of Peronne at several places to slightly westward of the Somme.

The enemy further south made some progress, capturing Nesle and Guiscard. French reinforcements are arriving in this neighbourhood.

Our troops, though tired, are of good heart and fighting splendidly.

The enemy is only progressing at the cost of heavy sacrifices.

Our losses in material have been heavy and include a number of tanks.

London, Mar. 25.
 A German message to Russia refused to evacuate Oise, because it is considered to be within Ukraine.

RETIREMENT FROM BAPAUME VOLUNTARY.

London, Mar. 25.

It is authoritatively stated that the British retired voluntarily from Bapaume, to the west of which we possess excellent defences.

The town itself is relatively unimportant. It is significant that the German war correspondents speak of the German losses at Bapaume as being "comparatively heavy."

WAR OFFICE REPORT.

London, Mar. 25.

The War Office announces to-day, we have beaten off continuous heavy attacks on the Somme and Wancourt fronts.

French reinforcements are arriving.

THE KING'S CHEERING MESSAGE.

London, Mar. 25.

The Press Bureau states that the King has telegraphed to Sir Douglas Haig as follows:—

"I assure you the fortitude, courage and sacrifices with which the troops under your command continue so heroically to resist greatly superior numbers, are realised by me and my people. The Empire stands calm, confident in its soldiers. God bless and give them strength in this time of trial."

WASHINGTON ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT.

London, Mar. 25.

The best informed opinion in Washington is absolutely confident.

American military critics warn the public against unreservedly swallowing communiqués, which are obviously chiefly inspired by a deliberate intention to create gloom, anxiety, and fear among the Allies.

GERMAN REPORT.

GERMANS CLAIM 45,000 PRISONERS.

London, Mar. 25.

A German official message says:—
 We defeated the enemy in a tremendous struggle near Bapaume.

We broke through a strong enemy position north-eastward of Bapaume after bitter fighting. Meanwhile our forces from east and south-east drove back the enemy via Ypres and Sailly.

The enemy's stubborn resistance which has been reinforced was broken in violent battles. Fresh divisions and numerous tanks vainly opposed our advance on the roads from Bapaume to Cambrai and Peronne.

During the night battle Bapaume fell into our hands.

Hot fighting developed for the possession of Comblès and the heights to the westward, in which the enemy was defeated.

English cavalry attacks broke down. We are now standing in the middle of the former Somme battle-field.

The Crown Prince, with General von Hutier's Army, advanced in bitter fighting the heights westward of the Somme. Violent English infantry and cavalry counter-attacks broke down sanguinarily.

We captured Nesle.

After crossing Crozat Canal we threw back the British, French and Americans at Laneuville, St. Illequier and Aumont. French infantry and cavalry divisions brought up for a counter-thrust were sanguinarily defeated.

We captured Guiscard and Chauny. Our prisoners now number 45,000.

THE LONG RANGE BOMBARDMENT OF PARIS.

PARIS, Mar. 25.

The long range gun resumed its bombardment at 6.50 on Monday morning.

The long range bombardment ceased at 9.30. All public services have worked normally.

STOCK EXCHANGE CONFIDENT.

London, Mar. 25.

The Stock Exchange opened with a feeling of quiet confidence.

Offerings of the leading securities were readily absorbed and quotations now only show slight declines on the balance.

Coms. are quoted 53½ and War Loans 93½.

OPERATIONS IN PALESTINE.

POSITIONS EXTENDED.

London, Mar. 25.

An official message from Palestine says:—
 We extended our positions on the left bank of the Jordan.

One of our patrolling machines attacked five aeroplanes and brought down three out of control.

The King of Hedjaz's troops, near Jeddah, 78 miles north-westward of Medina, surprised and destroyed a Turkish Camel Corps.

AIRSHIP OVER EGYPTIAN COAST.

CAIRO, Mar. 10.

It is officially stated that a hostile airship has been observed over the coast.

GERMANS REFUSE TO EVACUATE ODESSA.

London, Mar. 25.

Just received. A Small Shipment of

GIMBAL'S AMERICAN

CHOCOLATES

HENNA SHAMPOO POWDERS.

THE HENNA

VICTORIA DISPENSARY.

Telephone 288.

A handy lad with a hammer can do it well!
 But we employ men who are expert to demonstrate the best way to use

"MALTHOID"

These men have learned from experience and will give you the benefit of their experience

FREE!

It will make a great difference in your roof!

WEAP: "MALTHOID" LIGHT: CLEAN: WATERPROOF: SAFE: SNOWPROOF!

Agents: BRADLEY & Co., Ltd. Hongkong.

FURTHER PROGRESS IN PALESTINE.

FINE WORK BY LONDON BATTALION.

London, Mar. 25.

A Palestine official report states:—
 We threw fresh bridges across the Jordan on the night of the 23rd instant. We progressed by the night of the 24th instant nine miles through difficult mountainous country in the direction of Essalt.

Advanced mounted troops secured the bridge of El Howej, which is three miles to the south of the town.

The Turks and Germans are opposing the advance. We took prisoners of both nationalities.

The London Infantry Battalion in a brilliant attack captured an entire battery.

Aeroplanes, including the Australian units, effectively bombed, directly hitting the troops, transport camps and also the trains on the Hedjaz Railway.

JAPAN AND SIBERIA.

BUSINESS MEN'S OPINION.

OSAKA, Mar. 25.

Business men believe that immediate Japanese action in Siberia is unlikely.

GERMAN 400-TON SUBMARINE DAMAGED.

FERRAZ (Spain), Mar. 25.

A German submarine of 400 tons armed with two 11cm. guns with a crew of 30, has entered here.

The Commander stated the submarine was badly damaged as the result of a fight with three warships.

DESTROYER AND MINE-SWEEPER SUNK.

68 MEN LOST.

London, Mar. 25.

The Admiralty announces that a mine-sweeping ship was mined and sank on March 22.

Two officers and 64 men were lost. A destroyer after a collision on March 23 sank.

One officer and one man were lost.

BILLIARDS.

London, Mar. 25.

The final game in the tournament for the Championship of the Colony will be played at the Victoria Recreation Club, on Saturday, the 30th inst.

The game will be 1,000 up, played in two sessions, the first session being from 5.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. and the second session from 8 p.m.

The players are Gunner Lord and Wong Po Hong.

BEST MEDICINE MADE.

A better medicine cannot be made than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It relieves the lungs, opens the secretions, aids expectoration, and assists nature in restoring the system to healthy condition. Besides, it contains opium and is perfectly safe to take. For sale by all Chemists and Druggists.

THE CHINA MAIL.

THE GALLANTRY OF THE SHROPSHIRE.

CASUALTIES IN A GALLANT STAND.

The following paragraph from a Shropshire paper will interest a wide circle of readers in Hongkong.

From time to time we have referred to the bravery and tenacity of the Shropshires in the war. Only a few weeks ago we commented on the gallantry shown when the Territorials were unexpectedly brought into action.

Another glorious stand has been made somewhere on the Western Front by the same battalion. The details to hand from various sources show that the Shropshires had to temporarily evacuate a trench as their flank was in the air, but that the position was gallantly retaken about an hour later. Lieutenant Gordon Morley, after leading a successful raid, in which he greatly distinguished himself, by fearless bravery, was shot down by a sniper, just as he had achieved his objective. His exploit was a brilliant one and we hear that he is to be recommended for the Victoria Cross.

Other officers who had laid down their lives were Captain Atherton, only son of Mr. W. Atherton of Great Harwood, and Lieutenant Norman Smith of Bridgnorth, the late Adjutant of the first Battalion Shropshire Volunteers, both of whom were well known and held high regard in wide circles throughout the County. Major W. G. Litt was seriously, but not dangerously wounded, and the following officers were also wounded:—Captains Shearer and Hughes; Lieutenants Phillips, Esham, Boyce and Wilson, none of them very seriously, we are glad to hear. Reports speak very highly of Major Hawkins, Captain Shearer, and Captain Charles Litt, in the very midst of the heavy fighting. We have not yet heard the number of casualties amongst the men but are told the number killed is not very heavy considering the circumstances. One of those who won the Military Medal at Passchendaele was killed, Lance Corporal Eddcock, and Private C. Harper were badly wounded, whilst Corporal Brit

HONGKONG DEFENCE CORPS.

Orders for Artillery Company by Capt. J. H. W. Armstrong, Y.D.

PARADES AT BELCHERS BATTERY.
Thursday, 28th inst.—
7.30 a.m.—Right Half Company.
D.R.F. Class only.
8.15 p.m.—Left Half Company. D.R.F. Class only.

Orders for Engineer Company by Captain W. Russell.

22nd to 25th inst.—
M. L. HANING NIGHTLY.
Parades as per rosters posted at Headquarters: Engine drivers at 6.15 p.m.; electricians at 6.30 p.m.

OFFICERS NEXT FOR DUTY.
Belchers—2nd Lieut. Mathewman.
Lycemum—2nd Lieut. Templeton.
Stonewall—2nd Lieut. Marley.
INSTRUCTION FOR S.E.O. AND MEN OF INFANTRY DIVISION ATTACHED FOR DUTY.
Class 1 at Belchers at 8.30 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays.
Class 2 at Belchers at 8.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays.
Class 3 at Lycemum at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays, under Staff.
Serge. Overdone and Parsons, R.E., Capt. Day and 2nd Corp. Norris, H.K.D.C., at Belchers; and Staff Serge. Lurley and White, R.E., and Serg. Williams, H.K.D.C., at Lycemum.

Orders for Infantry Battalion by Major H. A. Morgan.

PARADES.
"A" Company.

Thursday, 28th inst.—
4.30 p.m.—Annual Musketry Course.
Part 3, Practices 15, 16, 17 and 18, at King's Park Range, for all who have not fired these practices. Dress, etc., as above.

"B" Company.
Thursday, 28th inst.—
4.30 p.m.—Annual Musketry Course.
Part 3, Practices 15, 16, 17 and 18, at King's Park Range, for all who have not fired these practices. Dress, etc., as above.

5.15 p.m.—Nos. 5 and 6 Platoons on Cricket Ground. Dress, drill order, MACHINE GUN COMPANY.

Thursday, 28th inst.—
4.30 p.m.—Annual Musketry Course.
Part 3, Practices 15, 16, 17 and 18, at King's Park Range, for all who have not fired these practices. Dress, etc., as above.
5.10 p.m.—Drill at Headquarters. The following men only need attend: Ptes. Field, Irvine, Labrum, Logan, McKenna, Pinquet and Stapleton.

WEDNESDAY, 28th inst.—
4.30 p.m.—Annual Musketry Course.
Part 3, Practices 15, 16, 17 and 18, at King's Park Range, for all who have not fired these practices. Dress, etc., as above.

5.15 p.m.—At Jockey Club Stables. Dress, drill order without rifles.

MONDAY SECTION.
Thursday, 28th inst.—
4.30 p.m.—Annual Musketry Course.
Part 3, Practices 15, 16, 17 and 18, at King's Park Range, for all who have not fired these practices. Dress, etc., as above.

RECRUITS.
Thursday, 28th inst.—
5.15 p.m.—All units, except "D" Company, on Murray Parade Ground on Monday and at Headquarters on Thursday under Sergt. Edmonds and Corp. Grimes. Dress, drill order.

"D" COMPANY.
Thursday, 28th inst.—
5.15 p.m.—All Sections. Rifle exercises and Section drill at Headquarters. Dress, drill order.

G. E. STEWART,
Captain,
Adjutant, H.K. Defence Corps.
Hongkong, 22nd March, 1918.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.
Orders issued by Mr. F. C. Jenkins, D.S.P. (R.).

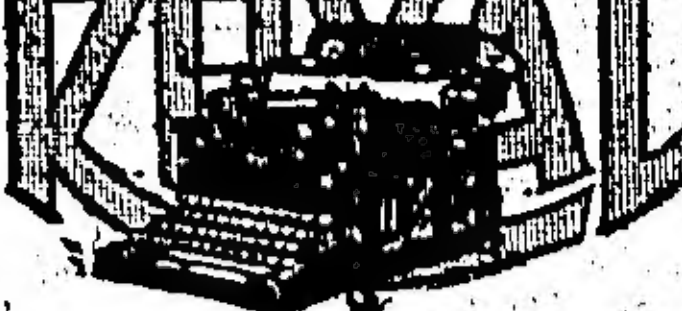
PATROLMEN.
Foot Patrolmen who do not in due course receive their warnings for duty for next period of 5 weeks (4th April to 30th May) must apply to their Warning Officers for same.

SEASON SUPERVISORS.
This Squad will commence duty on Thursday, 4th April. Members who do not receive warnings for duty before that date are made responsible for obtaining same from their respective Warning Officers, i.e. Inspectors Eastace or Wei Wing Sam.

RECRUITS.
References to Order herein dated 22nd March, all ranks below the rank of Inspector will carry truncheons when on patrol or police duty in uniform. The carrying of truncheons when off duty in uniform is optional.

By Order,
T. F. HOWES,
A.S.P. (R.), and Adjutant

"Compare the work"



The Typewriter of Triple Service—

Letter Making.

Card Typing.

Billing.

all in one.

More work with less effort.

ALEX ROSS & Co.,

4, Des Vaux Road Central.

METALS

of all kinds, especially for shipbuilding and engineering works. Largest and best assorted stock in the Colony.

SINGON & CO.

(ESTABLISHED A.D. 1880).

HING LUNG ST. PHONE 513

To-day's Advertisements

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction, (on account of the concerned),

WEDNESDAY, the 27th April, 1918, commencing at 2.30 p.m., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vaux Road, Corner of Ice House Street,

TEAKWOOD AND BLACKWOOD FURNITURE, BRASS AND TEAK TWIN BEDSTEPS, CURTAINS, CARPETS, PICTURES, &c.,

AND AN ASSORTMENT OF USEFUL HOUSEHOLD GOODS.

As follows:—
Arm-chairs and Chesterfield Sofas, Card Tables, Upholstered Suites, &c., Bedroom Furniture, comprising Double and Single Beds, and Brass-mounted Bedsteads, and Twin Bedsteads, Sideboards, Dinner Wagons, Extension Dining Tables and Chairs, Tea and Occasional Tables, &c., Dinner Services, Crockery, Glass Ware, Cooking Stoves, Cutlery, Toilet Sets, &c., Bath Room Utensils, Sundry Electro-Plated Ware.

Electric Reading Lamps, Blackwood and Teakwood Screens, Blackwood Furniture, including large 6-Fold Blackwood Screen with 8-Coloured Panels, Side Tables, &c., Engravings, Pictures, &c., &c., Tennis Rackets and Net, Iron Safe, Several Carpets, &c., &c.

Also
2 PIANOS and 1 RUBBER TYRED RICKSHA.

(Full Particulars from Catalogue.)
Terms—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.
Hongkong, Mar. 27, 1918. 275

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction, (on account of the concerned),

WEDNESDAY, the 27th April, 1918, commencing at 2.30 p.m., at their Sales Rooms, No. 8, Des Vaux Road, Corner of Ice House Street,

HOUSEHOLD LINENS, &c.,

Comprising:—
Single and Double Plain and Hem-stitched Sheets, Pillow Cases, Bed Quilts, Table Cloths, Pure Linen Damask Serviettes, Bath Sheets, Bath Towels, Turkish Towels.

Also, &c., &c.
Terms—Cash.

HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.
Hongkong, Mar. 27, 1918. 276

HONGKONG TIDES.

The tide-table given below has been compiled at the National Almanac Office in London from the result of the analysis of observations taken by means of an automatic tide-recording machine in the Water Police Basin at Tsim Sha Tsui during the years 1915-6.

The zero of the table corresponds with the zero of the sounding in the Admiralty Chart, which has been found to be 4 feet 3 inches below mean sea-level.

To obtain the depth of water on the tide gauge at the Victoria Naval Yard add 3 feet 4 inches, and on the gauge at Lamport Dock, Aberdeen, add 10 feet 4 inches to the height given in the table.

March 28th to April 2nd, 1918.

Time	High Water	Low Water
Mar. 28	10.15 a.m.	4.15 p.m.
Mar. 29	11.00 a.m.	3.30 p.m.
Mar. 30	11.45 a.m.	2.45 p.m.
Mar. 31	12.30 p.m.	1.55 p.m.
Apr. 1	1.15 p.m.	1.10 p.m.
Apr. 2	2.00 p.m.	1.15 a.m.

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Apr. 2	2.00 p.m.	1.15 a.m.

POST OFFICE NOTICES.

EASTER HOLIDAYS.

Good Friday, the 29th; Saturday, the 30th, and Monday, the 1st April, being general Holidays, the Post Office will be open on those days from 8 to 9 a.m. There will be one delivery of ordinary correspondence and one collection from the pillar boxes on each day.
The Money Order Office will be entirely closed during the Holidays.
There will be one special delivery of registered correspondence on Saturday and Monday at 9 a.m.
The Parcel Post Service to British East Africa and Egypt (except for members of the Expeditionary Forces) and to Abyssinia, Bagdad, Eritrea, French Somali Coast, Italian Somaliland, Portuguese East Africa, Zanzibar, and Russia have been suspended.

LOCAL AND REGULAR MAILS.

OUTWARD.

For Week-Days.

Sundays & Holidays.

For Week-Days.

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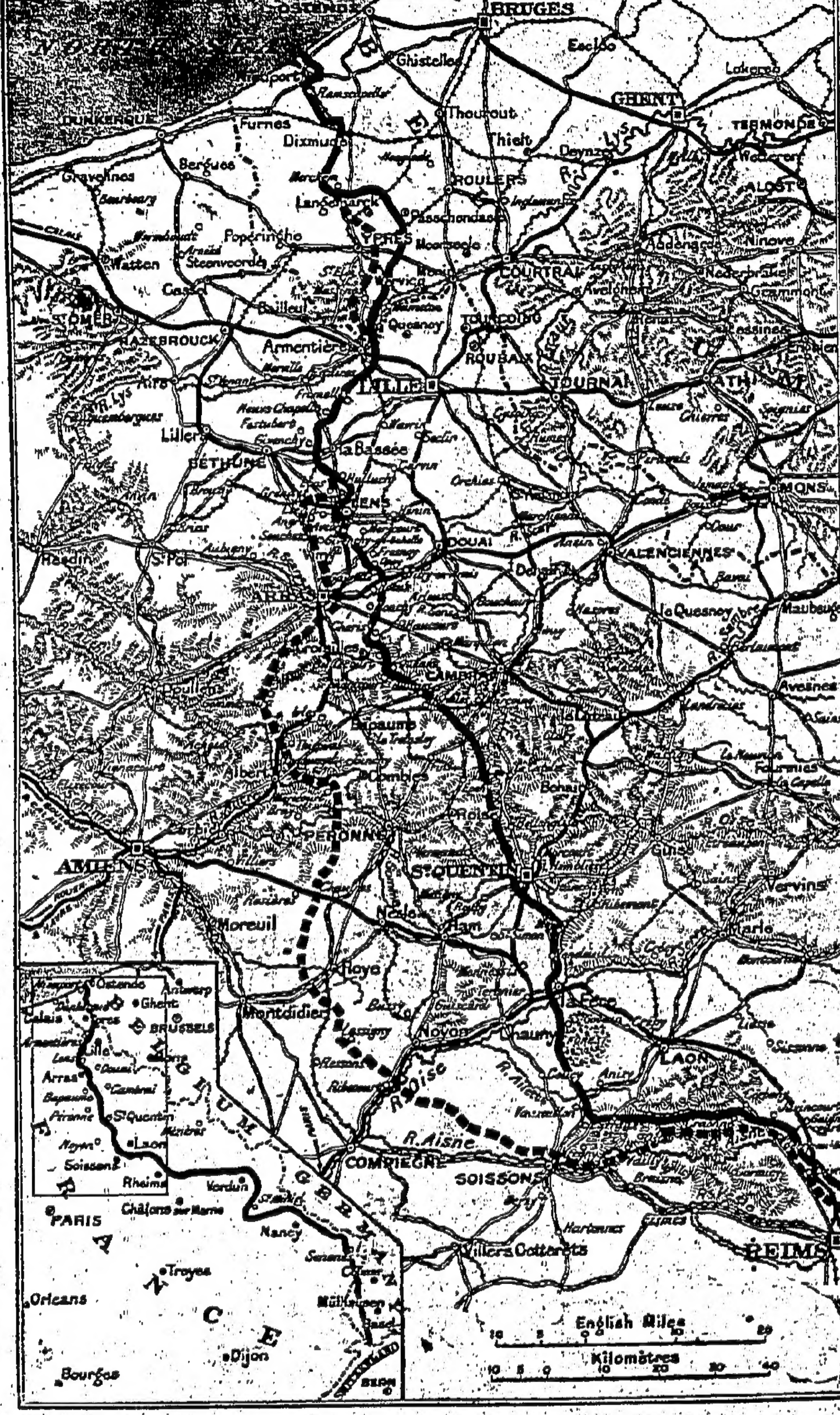
Sundays & Holidays.

For Week-Days.

Sundays & Holidays.

For Week-Days.

Sundays & Holidays.



THE BRITISH LINE.

The dotted line in the map is the line we held previous to the Battle of the Somme, and to which we are now withdrawing.

EXCHANGE.

Hongkong, March 27, 1918.

On London:—
Bull. Wire ... 2/4
On demand ... 2/4
30 days sight ... 2/4
4 months sight ... 2/4
Credit, 4 months sight ... 2/4
Documentary, 4 months sight ... 2/4

On Paris:—
On demand ... 4/10
Credit, 4 months sight ... 4/10
On New York:—
On demand ... 1/2
Credit, 90 days sight ... 1/2

On Bombay:—
Wire ... 1/2
On demand ... 1/2
On Calcutta:—
Wire ... 1/2
On demand ... 1/2

On Singapore:—
On demand ... 1/2
On Manila:—
On demand ... 1/2
On Shanghai:—
On demand ... 1/2

On Yokohama:—
On demand ... 1/2
Gold loan, 100 tons (per ton) ... 4/2
Silver (per oz.) ... 5/4
Chinese Copper Cash ... 25 p. nom.
Chinese Copper Coins ... 8 p. nom.
Chinese Silver Coins ... 7 1/2 p. nom.
Hongkong Reb. Unit ... par

March 28th to April 2nd, 1918.

High Water ... Low Water ...

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WEATHER REPORT.

March 27d. 12h. 03m.—No returns from Japan and Midway.

Pressure has increased slightly to moderately at all reporting stations. The anticyclone has increased in intensity, and fresh to strong monsoon will prevail along the China Coast, and over the N. China Sea.

Hongkong (Rainfall) for the 24 hours ending at 11 a.m. today: 0